



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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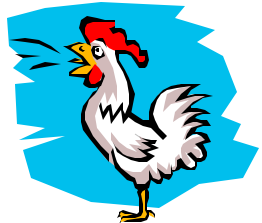
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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was generally steady, but irregular in the Northeast depending on size. Retail and food service demand was mostly fair at best with retail features noted but doing little for interest. Supplies were at least adequate for needs; however, in the Northeast, heavier weights were tight and smaller sizes were ample. In the parts structure, availability was adequate to fully sufficient and building, except for thighs and thigh meat which were adequate to tight. Movement was light to moderate at best. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate. Weights were in a full range, mostly desirable to light.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remained unchanged at 57.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 58.25 cents last year on the 24th of March, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
BREASTS - B/S	144.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	74.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	79.50
LEG QUARTERS	19.50
WINGS	58.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	WEEK ENDING 03/18/00	2000	1999	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	184,064	181,719		+01
CHICKS PLACED	147,092	146,092		+01

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 184 million eggs during the week ending March 18, 2000. This was up 1 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 148 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 18, 2000. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through March 18, 2000, were 1.59 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 29-Apr-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 153.6 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 149.9 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 153.6 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 154.2 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 56.49 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Offerings were easily adequate to cover current needs. Buyers' interest only fair. Retail demand was moderate, best to cover ads. Floor stocks adequate.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was steady. Demand was slow to fair with light trading. Supplies were usually sufficient to handle light buyer needs. In the parts structure, availability was at least adequate with thigh meat less available. Movement was fair to moderate. In production areas, live supplies were mostly moderate with weights covering the full range, but mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole fryers steady. Offers of additional whole fryers in balance for the light buyers needs. Trading on WOGs in Chicago reported at 39 cents. Retail and food service demand light to fair at best. In Chicago retail feature noted on whole birds at 49 cents and roasters at 99 cents. Floor stocks were adequate to instances ample. Sizes generally desirable. Offers of wings and boneless skinless breast increasing. Supplies of bone in breast and leg quarters adequate. Trade sentiment was generally steady on leg quarters, wings and bone in breast, barely steady to weak on boneless skinless breast.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was mostly quiet. Larger sizes continued generally short and lighter weights were ample. Retail and distributive movement was at best fair. The market tone was fully steady to firm on the heavier birds and barely steady to weak on the smaller birds. In the parts market, offerings were mixed. Thighs were tight to adequate. Breast items were adequate to fully adequate and boneless, skinless breasts were becoming more available. The remainder of parts were at least sufficient for the light demand.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was light to fair and centered mainly on the adequate to closely cleared supply of 3 pound and heavier sizes. 2.5 pound sizes remained readily available. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied and were mostly desirable to light. Processing schedules were reduced in instances and just moderate overall. Less than trucklot asking prices were 1 cent higher at 51 to 63 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, thighs were irregularly available. Other cuts were at least adequate for the light and selective buying interest.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	48-66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	53.42
NO. OF BOXES	6,296
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

MARCH 21, 2000

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MARCH 22, 2000

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	610	115.00-187.00	128-135	133.31
TENDERLOINS	106	125.00-185.00	125-130	136.13
BREAST - LINE RUN	272	69.00-75.00	69-70	71.94
FRONT HALVES	105	65.00-69.00	-	66.83
LEGS	49	25.00-33.00	25-28	26.47
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	596	15.00-18.00	15-17	15.70
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,099	16.50-20.00	19-20	19.02
WINGS (WHOLE)	115	51.00-57.00	54-56	55.57
WINGS (CUT)	409	63.00-78.00	64-67	67.13
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MARCH 21, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	AVERAGE
40.00 - 43.50	41.27

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	609	127.00-187.00	130-135	134.34
TENDERLOINS	174	125.00-185.00	125-130	132.27
BREAST - LINE RUN	99	69.00-73.00	69-70	69.32
FRONT HALVES	79	59.00-69.00	66-68	67.22
LEGS	52	25.00-33.00	25-26	26.85
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	539	15.00-18.00	15-16	15.76
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,186	16.50-20.00	19-20	19.02
WINGS (WHOLE)	144	51.00-57.00	51-53	54.60
WINGS (CUT)	437	62.00-77.00	64-66	66.61
DRUMSTICKS	19	33.00	-	33.00
THIGHS	9	33.00	-	33.00
B/S THIGHS	8	65.00-73.00	-	69.00

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS
TRADING FOR MARCH 22, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

TODAY'S RANGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
37.00 - 43.50	41.49
	40.76

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity quiet for midweek. Offerings mixed as some plants reported reduced slaughter schedules due in part to short weights, equipment upgrades and apparent cutbacks in production. Thighs and thigh meat tight to adequate. Boneless, skinless breasts becoming increasingly available and some discounting reported. Bone-in breasts ranged about adequate to fully adequate. Balance at least adequate.

Retail and distributive movement light to fair at best. The market tone fully steady to firm on thighs and no better than steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

MARCH 21, 2000

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135-140	140.30	369,040
TENDERLOINS	125-130	130.34	78,200
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.31	180,120
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	66.73	184,400
LEGS	26-27	30.49	263,280
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.00	399,139
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.14	119,820
THIGHS	22-23	30.03	57,700
B/S THIGHS	71-72	74.73	29,320
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	58.09	211,920
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	46,320
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.23	28,560
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	58.16	63,300

MARCH 22, 2000

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	135	139.27	353,320
TENDERLOINS	125-130	129.67	49,080
BREAST - WITH RIBS	64-65	72.25	147,080
BREAST - LINE RUN	64	66.73	170,600
LEGS	26-27	31.98	128,720
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.65	251,712
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	32.03	85,840
THIGHS	23-24	31.17	34,920
B/S THIGHS	72-73	76.23	28,640
WINGS (WHOLE)	50-51	60.78	174,400
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	26,560
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.86	29,400
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	50-55	54.35	52,600

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	03/22	03/21	03/20	03/17	03/15
ALA	3,958	3,941	3,765	3,361	5.14
ARK	5,241	5,253	4,965	4,871	4.87
DELMARVA	2,279	2,399	2,133	2,264	5.00
KY-LA-TN	2,008	1,859	2,044	1,907	4.47
MISS	2,298	2,372	2,694	2,690	5.16
NC	2,593	2,579	2,425	2,501	6.19
TEXAS	2,127	2,269	2,238	2,243	4.86
TOTAL	20,504	20,672	20,264	19,837	5.09
MON-WED	61,409	(A)			
				61,414	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 22-Mar 00 is estimated to be 30,676,000 down 0.65 percent from a week ago and up 6.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,878,000; last year 28,946,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	75-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS	ICE PACK	149-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 25-00

	CURRENT WEEK 03/25/00 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 03/18/00
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	156,127 (2)	159,120
LT HENS	2,071	1,973
HVY HENS	1,527	1,538
CHECK TOTAL	159,725	162,631

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 25-Mar-00 is 153.4 million head compared to 149.9 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.0 million head or 4.6 million more than estimated available. For week of 01-Apr-00 the estimated available is 152.9 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY		PROCESSED POULTRY	
	LBS		LBS	
AM 20-Mar-00	119,302		78,194	
AM 1-Mar-00	112,828		78,929	
CHG	6,474		-735	
PCT CHG	6		-1	

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	03/20/00	03/13/00	03/22/99	03/20/00	03/13/00	03/22/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	13,910	13,203	22,484	12,642	12,331	14,832
LOS ANGELES	115	157	718	3,496	3,451	8,691

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 03/21/00

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.60	.85	.69	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	3.75	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.10	.15	.13	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	.50	1.15	.65	BANTAMS ea.	1.50	3.75	-
BROILERS lb.	-	1.30	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	.25	.30	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	1.00	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.60	1.00	.78	ROOSTERS ea.	-	3.50	-
GEESE lb.	.30	.45	.36	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.55	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.65	.80	.75	DUCKS ea.	3.00	8.50	-
RABBITS lb.	.35	2.05	1.14	RABBITS ea.	2.00	6.00	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	2.75	10.50	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	5.00	10.00	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	1.00	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	3.00	9.50	-
SILKIES ea.	-	3.00	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 118

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2000

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	57-61
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65-67

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending March 17, 2000

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs W/ Thighs	Necks, Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	74.54	136.41	82.82	24.36	5.85	51.15
High	76.00	146.15	92.56	34.10	7.31	51.15
Mostly	75.51	146.15	87.69	34.10	5.85	51.15
SAN JUAN						
Low	70.64	126.66	73.08	29.23	7.31	58.46
High	73.08	141.28	82.82	38.97	10.72	58.46
Mostly	71.61	136.41	82.82	34.10	7.31	58.46
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	74.54	136.41	87.69	24.36	5.85	51.15
High	75.02	146.15	92.56	34.10	7.31	51.15
Mostly	75.02	146.15	87.69	34.10	5.85	51.15
BECERRA						
Low	71.13	126.66	77.95	31.67	7.31	57.49
High	74.05	146.15	87.69	38.97	10.72	57.49
Mostly	73.08	141.28	85.25	36.54	8.77	57.49

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS.**POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Officer-In-Charge)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Bell, CA	Voice	(323)269-4154	Jim Derby
	Fax	(323)269-5926	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(323)260-4676	